



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

HEADQUARTERS
MULTI-NATIONAL CORPS-IRAQ
BAGHDAD, IRAQ
APO AE 09342

April 13, 2007

To the Soldiers of Multi-National Corps-Iraq:

Late on Wednesday night a new policy was announced that set a 15-month boots-on-ground timeline for active duty US Army units currently serving in Iraq. My intent was to disseminate this information through the proper channels - your chain of command. However, due to a leak from within the Pentagon, we are now forced to disseminate this information after the fact.

Everyone, from the senior leadership to the youngest Soldiers operating in this theater, understands that this is tough. It is tough for you and for your families. It is also necessary. In order to ensure units get 12-months at home-station between tours and are able to sustain operational levels, we have to keep them in country for an additional 90 days. As Soldiers in a time of war, we are also equally aware that our mission always comes first, and this policy is essential to ensuring our success.

This policy will remain in effect until it becomes apparent that shorter tour lengths are feasible while also maintaining the ability to consistently keep units at home for 12 months. Our ultimate goal is to have units deploy for 12 months while spending 24 months at home. All Soldiers affected by this policy will receive an additional \$1000 for each month of service beyond 12 months in theater.

Army National Guard and Army Reserve unit tour lengths will continue to be 12 months. It is important to keep in mind that these units must spend a significant time away from home training prior to their deployment. The Marine Corps units deployed into theater will continue to do so for 7 months and will then stay at home for 6 months. The other non-ground force sister-services and Army Worldwide Individual Augmentation System (WIAS) fills will not change their tour lengths.

Our entire force is bearing the heavy burden our country requires of us. Your service provides a proud reminder to all Americans of the sacrifices that the men and women defending our great nation make daily. We are steadily moving forward and the mission remains clear. Continue performing with the confidence born of the extraordinary experience you've won with your sweat and blood. I see the strength and promise of our great nation in your faces as I travel across the country. You are doing a tremendous job, and I would like to personally thank you for your outstanding performance! Your efforts are making a difference each and every day.

Sincerely,

Raymond T. Odierno
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding